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State Dept. review
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O 221700Z JAN 73
FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 003
TO WINSTON LORD FOR DR KISSINGER
ZEM

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE~~ CONTAINS CODEWORD WH30150

TOHAK 003

JANUARY 22, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

MORI/CDF
C03360326

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: NOON NOTES

LAM'S STATEMENT IN PARIS: UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN PARIS TODAY, SOUTH VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTER TRAN VAN LAM TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE HAD COME "TO DISPLAY THE GOOD WILL OF OUR GOVERNMENT TO SEE THE REESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE IN VIETNAM AND, IF THAT IS POSSIBLE, TO BRING OUR DIRECT COOPERATION ON THE SPOT IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE NEGOTIATIONS."

RUMORS OF CEASE-FIRE: HIGH RANKING SOUTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS SAID TODAY THAT THEIR FORCES HAD CAPTURED DOCUMENTS INDICATING A CEASE-FIRE WOULD BE INITIALED IN PARIS ON WEDNESDAY MORNING (EST). THEY SAID THE PAPERS WERE FROM THE COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP AND HAD BEEN DISPATCHED TO NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIET CONG TROOPS.

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NO ARVN SPECIAL DEMOBILIZATION PLAN UNDERWAY: THE POLITICAL WARFARE DIRECTORATE GENERAL TODAY DENIED RECENT REPORTS THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES WOULD IMPLEMENT A DEMOBILIZATION PLAN.

REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF COMMUNIST POWS: SAIGON IS MOVING TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIET CONG POWS AVAILABLE FOR A POSTCEASE-FIRE EXCHANGE.

PLANS WERE LAID IN LATE 1972 TO CONVERT COMMUNIST PRISONERS TO RALLIER STATUS, THEREBY MAKING THEM ELIGIBLE FOR A POSTCEASE-FIRE EXCHANGE.

REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF COMMUNIST POWS: SAIGON IS MOVING TO
REDUCE THE NUMBER OF NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIET CONG POWS AVAIL-
ABLE FOR A POSTCEASE-FIRE EXCHANGE. ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE
GOVERNMENT SOURCE, PLANS WERE LAID IN LATE 1972 TO CONVERT
COMMUNIST PRISONERS TO RALLIER STATUS, THEREBY MAKING THEM
ELIGIBLE FOR RELEASE IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS CITIZENS. AS OF MID-
JANUARY, 2,000 WERE READY TO BE RELEASED AND AN ADDITIONAL 2,700
WERE AWAITING THE COMPLETION OF THEIR PROCESSING. THIS IS THE
FIRST INDICATION THAT A SYSTEMATIC PROGRAM TO INCREASE THE
NUMBER OF RALLIERS HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED. THE INSTIGATION OF
SUCH A PROGRAM AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THE ORIGINAL OCTOBER 31
DEADLINE SUGGESTS THAT SAIGON HAS DECIDED TO PROVIDE ITSELF WITH
MORE FLEXIBILITY TO DEAL WITH THE PRISONER ISSUE AFTER THE NEW
SETTLEMENT IS SIGNED, ACCORDING TO CIA.

SHOOT-TO-KILL ORDERS AGAINST COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATORS: PRESIDENT
THIEU WAS REPORTED TODAY TO HAVE ISSUED HIS TROOPS AND POLICE
SHOOT-TO-KILL ORDERS AGAINST COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATORS, RIOTERS,
AND SYMPATHIZERS WHO TRIED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CEASE-FIRE
EXPECTED SOON. TIN SONG SAID TROOPS AND POLICE IN ALL FOUR
MILITARY REGIONS HAD BEEN PUT ON FULL ALERT, SOME AS FAR BACK
AS 10 DAYS AGO. IT ALSO REPORTED THAT THE ARMY AND NATIONAL
POLICE HAD BEEN ORDERED TO ESTABLISH SCORES OF ADDITIONAL MOBILE
CHECKPOINTS ALONG THE ROADS INTO SAIGON TO STOP THE COMMUNISTS
FROM SMUGGLING WEAPONS, EXPLOSIVE DEVICES, AND PROPAGANDA LEAF-
LETS INTO THE CAPITAL.

COMMUNIST AMBUSH: THE SAIGON COMMAND SAID TODAY COMMUNIST FORCES
OFFERED TO FREE WOUNDED SOUTH VIETNAMESE POWS SUNDAY BUT USED
SOME OF THEM AS BAIT TO AMBUSH RESCUE TEAMS. SOUTH VIETNAMESE
HELICOPTERS DREW FIRE WHEN THEY FLEW OVER THE DESIGNATED PICKUP
ZONE IN THE MICHELIN RUBBER PLANTATION NORTHWEST OF SAIGON, WHERE
A MAJOR CLASH HAD TAKEN PLACE.

BEAM-GROMYKO TALKS: DURING AMBASSADOR BEAM'S CALL ON GROMYKO
TODAY, THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER CLAIMED THAT OUR SUBSTANTIVE
POSITIONS ON MBFR WERE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME. HOWEVER, THE SO-
VIETS THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE DIFFICULTIES IF THE TALKS BEGAN
WITH RESTRICTED PARTICIPATION, WHICH WOULD NOT PERMIT THE OTHER
COUNTRIES TO SPEAK THEIR MINDS. BEAM REPLIED THAT THIS APPROACH
COULD CAUSE TROUBLE AND THAT PARTICIPATION COULD BE EXPANDED WHEN
THE CONCRETE RESULTS FROM THE SMALLER GROUP WERE IN PROSPECT.
GROMYKO DISCOUNTED THE DIFFICULTY BEAM MENTIONED OF NARROWING
THE GROUP DOWN EVENTUALLY TO THE ESSENTIAL PARTICIPANTS AND
SUGGESTED U.S.-USSR TALKS AND ACTION TO THIS END. BEAM HOPES
THAT THE WESTERN REPLY TO THE SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR THE TALKS
WILL "HIT HARD AT (THE) ILLOGICAL JUSTIFICATION OF (THE) SO-
VIET POSITION."

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WHITLAM TO VISIT THE U.S.: STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD THE PRESS THERE ARE TENTATIVE PLANS FOR AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM TO VISIT THE U.S. HE MAY MEET WITH PRESIDENT NIXON WHEN HE ATTENDS AN AUGUST MEETING OF ANZUS MEMBERS OR THE OPENING OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
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